are minor and are comparable to that in thermal processing or cooking of food.

(b) Extensive studies on these aspects have been carried out in India and abroad and under the WHO/FAO/IAEA sponsored programmes.

Abnormalities due to Food Irradiation

1152. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that food irradiation is known to cause chromosomal abnormalities which have been linked to loukemia;

(b) whether irradiation has also been implicated in testicular tumors; and

(c) whether these dangers from food irradiation are in the knowledge of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Ingestion of radiation processed food, does not produce Chromosomal abnormalities as borne out by experiments done in India and several countries abroad.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government is fully aware of the safety aspects of the food irradiation process.

Conference of District Magistrates/Collectors

1153. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms fixed by the Central for holding the Conference of District Magistrates or District Collectors under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister;

(b) the number of the conferences so far have been held in the States; and

(c) what are the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Five Workshops of District Magistrates/Collectors were held during December 1987 to June 1988. About 1/5th of District Magistrates/Collectors were nominated by the respective State Governments to participate in each of the Workshops.

(c) Issues that were discussed in these Workshops stemmed from the theme of 'Responsive Administration' (Point 20 of the twenty Point programme) and concerned aspects like district planning within a democratic framework, innovations and institutional changes, public distribution system, effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes, coordination and linkages between official and non-official agencies, delegation of powers, simplification of procedures, accountability, performance evaluation and service conditions. The participants at the Workshops gave suggestions on various issues with a view to making district administration more responsive and emphasized among other things, the need for district level planning within the framework of panchayati raj institutions.

Specific suggestions on the content and methodology of district planning were also made by the participants. The suggestions made at the Workshops are being discussed further in appropriate fora.